

## AMERICAN POLITICS IS BECOMING MORE CORRUPT BY THE DOLLAR

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it's been more than 2 years since the Supreme Court rendered its Citizens United decision, and American politics is becoming more corrupt by the dollar.

Election season is flooded with special-interest money, confirming the deep skepticism of an American public that is estranged from and fed up with its government. In the past 2 years alone, super PACs have raised approximately \$181 million, an increase of more than 1,200 percent, in outside spending during a Presidential election.

Our system allows for corporations and extremely wealthy individuals to influence elections without any accountability, and this must change. That's why I'm a cosponsor and strong supporter of the DISCLOSE 2012 Act, which would shine a light on the secret money in political campaigns.

The DISCLOSE 2012 Act requires public reporting by super PACs, corporations, unions, and outside groups within 24 hours of making a campaign expenditure. It forces leaders of other corporations and other outside groups to stand by their campaign ads by appearing in them and stating that they approve this message.

Madam Speaker, I urge Republican leadership to bring the DISCLOSE 2012 Act up for a vote. Until we get Big Money out of politics, we will never be able to responsibly address the major issues facing American families.

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## EPIDEMIC OF HUNGER

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to address the epidemic of hunger in this Nation. Nearly 49 million people in the United States suffer from hunger. That is one in six in the U.S. population, including more than one in five children.

Feeding America recently reported that 46 percent of households served by its agencies must choose between paying for utilities or heating fuel and paying for food. Thirty-nine percent of households said they must choose between paying their mortgage or rent and paying for food.

Hunger is real in this country. We know that, yet some still demonize SNAP and other feeding programs. Preventing hunger is a moral imperative that should be shared by people in every party, every demographic, and every religion.

I encourage my colleagues to visit a local food bank in their district, or take the SNAP Challenge. Find out what it is like to live for just 1 day or

1 week as someone who struggles with hunger.

## INVESTING IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, Californians drive a lot, so when gas prices jump, we feel it first and the most. Back home, gas has jumped 26 cents in the last week and 57 cents since this time last year. We are paying on the average \$4.30 a gallon.

Our constituents need our help. They also understand the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

I happen to drive a Nissan Leaf, an all-electric vehicle, which will be built right here in America in Tennessee in the near future. This gives me the benefit of driving past gas stations, but I don't have to fill up my tank to be shocked by the prices at the pump. And if given the opportunity, I think most Americans would jump at the chance to join me in driving right past those high gas prices and stop sending hundreds of billions of dollars to the Middle East.

"Drill, baby, drill" won't lower gas prices today or tomorrow, but it will feed our addiction to dirty fossil fuels which are quickly running out. Let's work together to invest in infrastructure for electric vehicles to make them more affordable and convenient. We will create jobs, take hold of the economy of the future, and end our dependence on oil.

## JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, with the unemployment rate now at 8.3 percent, we continue to see positive signs that the U.S. economy is on the road to recovery. Now more than ever it is absolutely imperative that we continue to make critical investments in infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and high-tech research and development. By doing so, we will address our crumbling roads and bridges, create jobs, and provide future generations with the robust economic foundation on which to build a stronger America.

The President's budget has reflected the desire to make these important investments in our economy, and I urge my colleagues to also recognize the decisions we make today will have unavoidable consequences tomorrow.

While our economy is recovering, it is still fragile. Now is not the time to be making arbitrary cuts to key components of our economy. We all bear the burden of such cuts, and we are all ultimately responsible for the country's well-being.

## GET OUR NATION BACK TO WORK

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, the American people's patience is wearing thin. A majority of the American people believe that jobs should be the number one priority of the 112th Congress. However, over a year has passed since the Republican majority took control of the people's House, and we have still not passed a single significant jobs bill.

To avoid any confusion, let's discuss what a jobs bill is not. A jobs bill is not a tax cut for the multimillionaires and billionaires. A jobs bill is not protecting subsidies for corporations that ship jobs overseas. And a jobs bill is not, Madam Speaker, dismissing out of hand the President's plan for reviving American manufacturing and creating a stronger and a more skilled workforce.

As our economy continues to recover from the recent economic downturn, it is past time for the Republican majority to work with the President and get our Nation back to work.

## PROTECTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 563 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 563

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2117) to prohibit the Department of Education from overreaching into academic affairs and program eligibility under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question